

Marine Corps nominations (117) beginning WILLIAM A. AITKEN, and ending DOUGLAS P. YUROVICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of February 27, 2001.

IN THE NAVY

Navy nomination of Edward Schaefer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of February 27, 2001.

Navy nominations (12) beginning ANTHONY C. CREGO, and ending TERRY W. BENNETT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of February 27, 2001.

Navy nominations of James G. Libby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 8, 2001.

Navy nomination of Anthony W. Maybrier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 8, 2001.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

PEACE TALKS ON NAGORNO KARABAGH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to offer my hope for the continued success of the Nagorno Karabagh negotiations. On April 3, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia will meet in Key West, FL, to continue their dialogue on the Nagorno Karabagh region, an area that is essential for the continued stability of the Caucasus.

President Heidar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Robert Kocharian of Armenia started a direct dialogue in 1999 and have met over a dozen times in an attempt to bring peace and stability to the South Caucasus. Their upcoming talks in Key West are a continuation of the most recent set of meetings that included French President Jacques Chirac. My hope is that the United States, France, and Russia—working directly with the two presidents—can increase the potential for resolving the conflict over Nagorno Karabagh.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 29, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,770,774,722,962.15. Five trillion, seven hundred seventy billion, seven hundred seventy-four million, seven hundred twenty-two thousand, nine hundred sixty-two dollars and fifteen cents.

One year ago, March 29, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,452,000,000. Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, four hundred fifty-two million.

Five years ago, March 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,117,786,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred seventeen billion, seven hundred eighty-six million.

Ten years ago, March 29, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,465,189,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred sixty-five billion, one hundred eighty-nine million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 29, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$600,421,000,000. Six hundred billion, four hundred twenty-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,170,353,722,962.15. Five trillion, one hundred seventy billion, three hundred fifty-three million, seven hundred twenty-two thousand, nine hundred sixty-two dollars and fifteen cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WRESTLING TEAM'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of a wonderful victory by the 2001 NCAA Wrestling Champions, The University of Minnesota. Because this is the Golden Gophers' first national championship in wrestling, this team victory is worthy of special note.

As colleagues may know, I follow college wrestling closely. Having seen a good deal of wrestling in my life, I can say that the performance by this year's Golden Gopher team was nothing short of spectacular. Throughout this season, members of the team showed a level of determination and skill that became the pride of the people of my state and captured the respect of college wrestling fans across the country. In gaining the national championship on March 19, the team scored 138.5 points and earned an NCAA-record 10 All-Americans.

College wrestling is a consummate American sport. It centers around matches in which individuals face off and are recognized for their strength, speed, and versatility, just as we celebrate individual achievement in other aspects of American life. However, wrestling championships are not won by individuals, they are won by teams. Just as this country thrives based on the contributions of all its citizens, college wrestling teams rely upon teammates of all weights for points if they are to gain a championship.

I do want to take this opportunity to make the point to my colleagues that we should be concerned about recent problems of amateur wrestling in the United States. According to a recent report from the Government Accounting Office, 40 percent of the nation's college wrestling programs have disappeared in the past two decades. As someone who was given the opportunity to develop personally through the challenge of wrestling and as a former student-athlete who gained access to a first-rate education thanks to

a wrestling scholarship, I am concerned about those who, increasingly, are not able to pursue wrestling during their college years. It is important to many Americans that the United States be competitive in all Olympic sports such as wrestling. Furthermore, amateur athletics has provided a way up and a way out for many young Americans. We have a responsibility to do what we can to revitalize a wonderful sport at the college level.

That can be a discussion for a later day, Mr. President. Today is a day to celebrate the accomplishment of a superb team, The University of Minnesota Golden Gopher wrestlers.●

THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF HAROLD BURSON, FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, BURSON-MARSTELLER

• Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, last month marked the 80th birthday of Harold Burson, the founding chairman of one of the world's leading public relations firms, Burson-Marsteller. This milestone, celebrated with good health and good humor by Mr. Burson along with his family and many friends, is especially noteworthy to the people of Tennessee because he is one of our most distinguished native sons. Harold Burson was born in Memphis on February 15, 1921. Despite a lifetime of accomplishment and honors on a global scale, he has never forgotten his Tennessee roots. Likewise, Mr. Burson's lifetime of professional achievement has earned him the deep respect of his fellow Tennesseans.

I ask that a series of letters written in tribute to Mr. Burson on the occasion of his 80th birthday be printed in the RECORD.

These letters from President Bush and others demonstrate that Harold Burson's contributions have meaning not just to folks in Tennessee, but to all Americans.

Thanks to the legacy of Harold Burson, public relations is a more respected and honored profession. Those of us who have the privilege of holding public office know that public opinion is at the heart of our democratic process. Harold Burson has helped create a profession that has brought credibility and integrity to the practice of influencing public opinion. People who have worked with Mr. Burson and have had him as a mentor are leading the public relations industry today and will do so in the future. Thanks to Mr. Burson's good health and robust spirit at the age of 80, his legacy is still being written.

When the last century was coming to a close, PRWeek, an industry publication, named Harold Burson the most influential figure in public relations in the twentieth century. The publication cited Mr. Burson's career as a counselor, advisor and mentor, and described him as "the most complete PR professional in history."